

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 SAJ-01 OPR-02 SCS-03

SCA-01 SY-05 SCCT-01 OMB-01 /066 W

----- 104997

O 221358Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1283

INFO USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

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CINCEUR ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, MILI, LE

SUBJECT: INCREASED SECURITY ON THE CORNICE

1. DURING PAST FOUR DAYS, SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN SECURITY FORCES
STATIONED ALONG CORNICHE HAS BEEN NOTED BETWEEN HOTEL RIVIERA AND
CHANCERY9

2. APPROXIMATELY JULY 18, STAGHOUND WITH 75MM GUN TOOK UP
POSITION NEAR AUB TOWER. SINCE THAT TIME IT HAS BECOME PEROANENT
FIXTURE. TENTS HAVE BEEN SET UP FOR THE CREW, AND ATTEMPTS HAVE BEEN
MADE TO CAMOUFLAGE IT WITH SHRUBBERY. CREW HAS NOT ATTEMPTED TO
INTERFERE WITH TRAFFIC ON ROAD ITSELF, AND ITS MAJOR CONCERN
APPEARS TO BE SEAWARD APPROACHES TO BEIRUT.

3. HEAVILY ARMED FOOT PATROLS HAVE BEEN INSTITUTED AND ARE
MAINTAINED FROM DUSK TO DAWN. AT APPROXIMATELY 1930 ON JULY 21,
MARKED INCREASE IN THESE SECURITY FORCES WAS OBSERVED.

4. BEGINNING AT HOTEL RIVIERA AND SPACED APPROXIMATELY 100
YARDS APART WERE VEHICLE-MOUNTED HEAVY MACHINE GUNS OF VARIOUS
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TYPES AND ONE VEHICLE-MOUNTED RECOILLESS RIFLE. INCREASED NUMBERS

OF TROOPS WERE ALSO EVIDENT. AS IN CASE OF STAGHOUND MENTIONED ABOVE, THESE ADDITIONAL FORCES MADE NO OBSERVED ATTEMPTS TO INTERFERE WITH VEHICULAR OR PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC. THE FORCES' ATTENTION WAS DIRECTED SEAWARD, AS WERE ALL WEAPONS.

5. COMMENT: WE ASSUME THAT THIS DEPLOYMENT OF SECURITY FORCES ALONG CORNICHE IS RELATED TO THE GENERAL CREDENCE BEING GIVEN TO REPORTS OF AN IMMINENT SEA ATTACK AGAINST WEST BEIRUT..
SEELYE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SITUATION, CIVIL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BEIRUT06522
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760282-0454
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760734/aaaabdg.d.tel
Line Count: 70
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <20 OCT 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INCREASED SECURITY ON THE CORNICE
TAGS: PINS, MILI, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006